



Lincolnshire County Council

Tuesday 10th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

This term I have been monitoring attendance and reviewing the school's current policies and procedures. I wrote to you in my first newsletter that attendance would become a regular feature discussed and I have also made it a regular item on our weekly staff briefings. Findings will also be reported to the governing body so that issues can be actioned and supported by all.

On a positive note, we have many children attending school everyday and achieving great success because of this. However, we also have some significant cases of low attendance and are becoming increasingly aware of the impact of this on individuals and the school as a whole. I am therefore looking for your support in improving whole school attendance.

North Scarle Primary School have a whole school attendance target which is **96%**. This is in-line with National government expectation however our current attendance for this academic year sits at **94%**.

The impact upon children's education through lost learning is huge. At a time when so much education has been disrupted it is vital that we make every school minute count. I urge you to ensure that your child is in and on time everyday to prevent anyone falling behind with their learning.

Persistent cases where poor attendance and punctuality do not improve can be considered to be neglect.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is **persistent absence** which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice
- **Avoid taking any holidays during term times**
- Keep up to date with what % attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence
- Speak to school staff with any concerns
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important **you** feel it is

The impact on learning and attainment can be so significant. A pupil with 90% attendance will have missed at least 19 days in school which is equivalent to 4 weeks of missed learning and approximately 95 lessons.

We appreciate that this year we have all continued to be affected by the impact of COVID 19 illness and most recently the sickness bug making its way through school. Days of absence which have been coded as COVID do not count towards a child's attendance percentage. Other medical and authorised (illness)

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absences do feature as part of their overall % but will of course be taken into account and we will review every child's attendance levels on an individual basis.

We of course want to support you in maintaining your child's excellent attendance or, if required, help to improve their attendance so will be putting the following into place:

- Introduce a new coded system for attendance to improve clarity of expectation and understanding (please see table below)

Green Pupils with attendance from 100% to 96%
Amber Pupils with attendance from 95.9 - 90%
Red Pupils with attendance Below 90%

- Send letters at least every half term to inform you of your child's attendance % and if needed, ways we can work together to improve their attendance
- Ensure the school's Attendance Policy is under regular review and available on the school's website
- Continue to promote attendance in the school's newsletters
- Celebrate successful attendance each half term in assemblies and by giving certificates to those children whose attendance is in our Green standard
- Make sure the children understand the importance of attendance through our assemblies

We will be sending out individual attendance letters before the end of term. Please see these as steps to helping you in supporting your children to be as successful as they possibly can be.

Thank you for your support. I hope that together we can make improvements to attendance.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs K Durant Good
Headteacher

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